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# GEOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

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## *THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND*



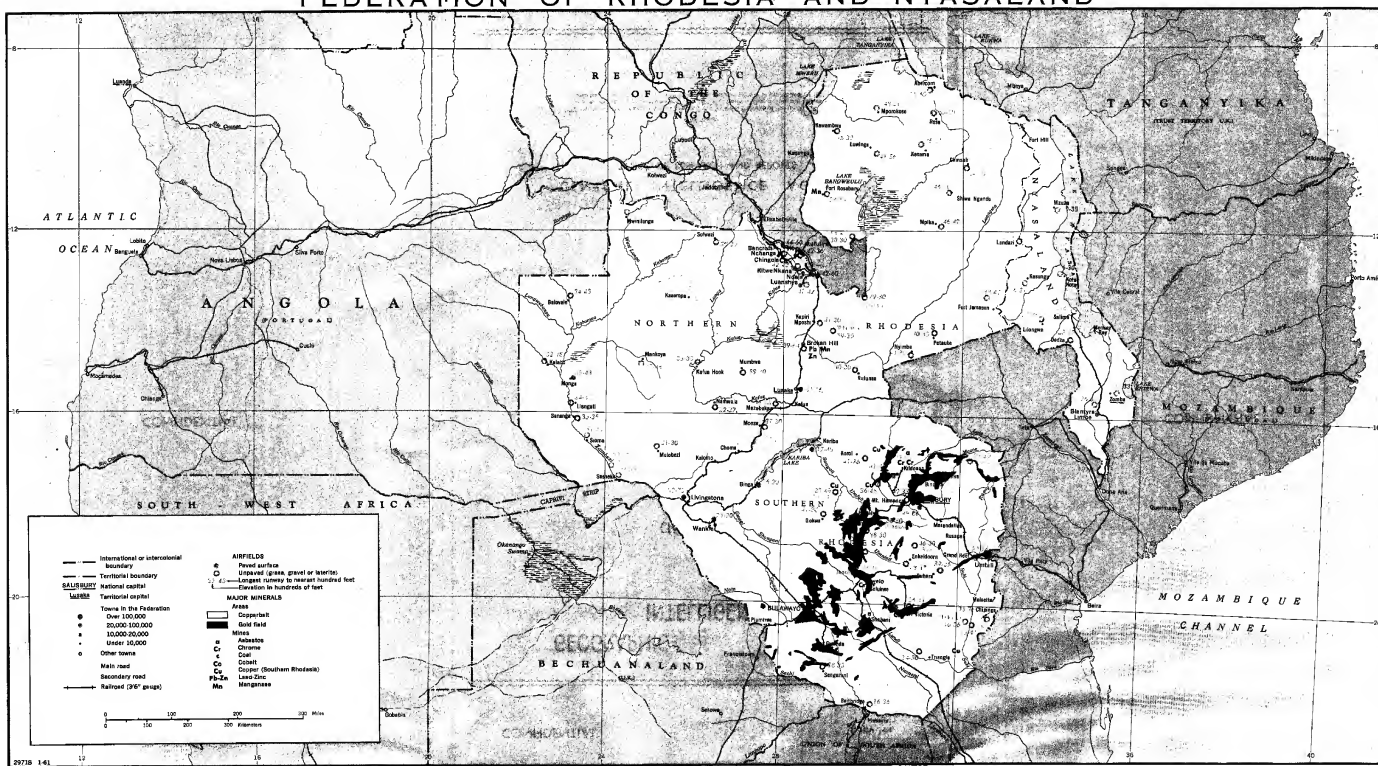
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## I. The Federation as a Whole

### A. The Federation Today

With its formation on 1 September 1963, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland became an important representative of the Commonwealth of Nations in southern Africa. The expectation at the time was that the union would become a model in race relations. Today, however, conflict between African nationalists and the European leaders, particularly in Southern Rhodesia, threatens to create upheaval in the Federation. The units comprising the Federation are the Protectorate of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the self-governing Colony of Southern Rhodesia. Together they form an irregular block that lies between 8°10' South and 22°25' South and covers an area of approximately one-half million square miles -- an area slightly larger than that of the Union of South Africa but only about one-half the size of the Congo. The land-locked Federation is bordered on the northwest by the Congo, on the northeast by Tanganyika (British), on the east by Mozambique (Portuguese), on the south by the Union of South Africa, on the southwest by Bechuanaland (British), and on the west by Angola (Portuguese).

Africans comprise approximately 95 percent of the population of the Federation, which totals some 8,000,000 people. More than 170 tribes live within the Federation, all of whom are of Bantu origin. Among the larger groups are the Shona and Ndebele of Southern Rhodesia, the Bemba and Lozi of Northern Rhodesia, and the Yao of Nyasaland. Although most of these people still live in the bush on a subsistence basis, many have been drawn to the towns, factories, and mines and have become participants in the money economy. At present, slightly more than 1,000,000 Africans are wage earners. More than half of them are employed as unskilled labor in Southern Rhodesia.

The 300,000 Europeans in the Federation are largely of British origin, about 60 percent of them having arrived from the United Kingdom or the Union of South Africa since 1945. More than 215,000 of the Europeans reside in Southern Rhodesia, but the Colony still has 12 Africans for each white person. In Northern Rhodesia, where some 75,000 Europeans live, the ratio between Africans and Europeans is 12 to 1, and in the 3,000 Europeans in Nyasaland are outnumbered 300 to 1. Although the total population of the Federation is divided relatively evenly among the three members of the Federation, the population density varies greatly. Northern Rhodesia, with about 60 percent of the total area, has a density of only 8 persons per square mile; Southern Rhodesia, comprising approximately 30 percent of the area, has 19 persons per square mile; but Nyasaland, with only 10 percent of the area of the Federation, has a density of 75 persons per square mile.

In Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia, most of the country is rolling plains and rounded hills between 3,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level, but peaks in the eastern part of both areas rise to more than 7,000 feet. Nyasaland, by contrast, is dominated by a deep depression -- the southern end of the African Rift Valley -- that crosses the Protectorate from east to end. Southern Rhodesia is little more than 200 feet above sea level, but much of the Protectorate is more than 3,000 feet in elevation and some of the highest land in the southeast and northeast exceeds 6,000 feet.

In spite of its tropical location, generally high average elevations give the Federation a more desirable climate than that of the low-lying neighboring countries to the east, north, and west. Mean maximum temperatures for the summer months (October-April) range from the high 70's to the low 90's throughout much of the area, and the nearest approach to winter is the occasional occurrence of ground frost during a somewhat cooler season (May-September), when mean minimum temperatures range in the 40's and 50's. Midwinter temperatures for Salisbury (July mean, 50°) approximate those of San Diego, California, and midsummer temperatures (January mean, 60°) are similar to those of July at Cody, Wyoming, near Yellowstone National Park. The seasonal contrast in rainfall is much sharper. Most of the rain falls during the months between September and May, with very little in the remainder of the year. Throughout much of the

Federation, precipitation averages between 20 and 45 inches a year, but the extreme south receives less than 12 inches and the highlands of eastern Northern and Southern Rhodesia and of Nyasaland have more than 60 inches. By the end of the wet season, the larger rivers frequently overflow their banks and, during the long dry season, many of the smaller streams become completely dry.

The natural vegetation of the rolling plains is chiefly savanna-type grassland dotted with open hardwood forests or open parkland. On the flat land bordering the Zambezi River and in some areas of Northern Rhodesia, this cover gives way either to denser forest of Rhodesian teak and mahogany or to thick jungles and at higher elevations in Nyasaland the hardwoods are replaced in many places by mesophytic vegetation or coniferous woodlands. Much of the native vegetation has disappeared before the combined attacks of the African bush burner, the European farmer, and the midday-company timber crew, but large areas of scrubland bush remain. Much of Northern Rhodesia is still relatively undisturbed because of tsetse-fly infestation, which is a hazard to both man and cattle. In sharp contrast to the scorched lands of the native farmers are the modern ranches and neat farmsteads of the European settlers, the larger cities of Southern Rhodesia with their tall buildings and spacious suburban homes, and the bustling industrial centers.

### B. Resources

The physical setting of the Federation provides a wide range of opportunity for agricultural and mining activity. With irrigation, crops can be grown for 12 months of the year in most parts of the Federation, and the climate of the higher areas of the Rhodesias and the mountain slopes of Nyasaland is adequate enough to support nontropical crops such as hay and potatoes. Except in some parts of Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia, the farmer has plenty of land to work. Most European farms include large areas of undeveloped land, and even vacant land remains to permit the bush-burning African farmer to move on to fresh land when the plot he is cultivating becomes depleted.

Several negative elements, however, must be overcome before the full potential of agriculture can be realized. Because the soil is generally poor and rapidly becomes exhausted, European farming is dependent on fertilizers to maintain crop yields; but production under the primitive shifting agriculture of the Africans is consistently low, and the "new land" is customarily moved to when the soil is depleted well ahead of exhaustion. The long dry season makes irrigation a necessity on European farms; but for the African farmer the dry season means 6 idle months. Extensive areas of the land with a good supply of water cannot be used because they are heavily infested with the tsetse fly. In some parts of the Federation, wild game plays havoc with domestic animals, and much potential farmland is too far removed from established routes of transportation or centers of population to be of interest to other than subsistence farmers.

Mineral resources are the most important resource of the Federation. In addition to the major revenue-producing minerals -- copper, asbestos, coal, chrome, and cobalt -- many other mineral products are extracted in commercial quantities. Development of mineral resources has advanced in rapid strides in the last 15 years, most notably in the Copperbelt of Northern Rhodesia, and has been the major attraction for investment capital. The mineral industry currently consumes about 1/3 of the available coal and coke, pays approximately 50 percent of all direct taxes, provides more than 50 percent of all tonnage moved by rail, consumes 65 percent of the electricity produced, and provides more than 65 percent of the total exports. Mineral production is concentrated in Southern Rhodesia and in the Northern Rhodesian Copperbelt, but exploration for new mineral deposits has been actively undertaken in all three parts of the Federation.

The great hydroelectric power potential of the Zambezi River has now been tapped by the Kariba hydroelectric plant. However, much of the power for the Federation's industry is still supplied by thermal plants, using coal from the Wankie mines of Southern Rhodesia, or by scattered small hydroelectric

installations. The first flow of energy from the Kariba project early in 1960 introduced a new era in electric power supply. The first stages of the Kariba plant now provide a portion of the energy requirement of the industry of Southern Rhodesia and the Copperbelt, and during the height of the Congo emergency in the summer of 1960, Kariba power was even exported to the Congo to replace the output of plants that customarily not only supply the Rhodesia but also export electricity to the Copperbelt. Present plans for Kariba anticipate an installed capacity of 1,800 megawatts by 1975 -- more than 4 times the total installed generating capacity of the entire Federation in 1955. The Kariba dam will create the largest man-made lake in the world -- 175 miles long and 2,000 square miles in area.

Three smaller hydroelectric projects in the northern part of Northern Rhodesia have recently been completed -- at Abercorn, Kamassa, and Fort Rosebery. Another project, at Muli Falls on the Shire River some 22 miles northeast of Bulawayo, Nyasaland, is now under consideration and could provide enough additional electric power for the expansion of commercial and industrial activity in an area that will not be served by the Kariba hydroelectric system.

### C. Transportation

The Federation is highly dependent upon a system of railroads operated by the federal government. Almost all import and export freight is moved by rail, and agricultural and commercial activity of any significance is confined to areas served by rail lines. The 2,700 miles of track of the Rhodesian Railways serve Northern and Southern Rhodesia and provide international connections with Lobito, Angola, on the Atlantic Ocean; Beira and Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, on the Indian Ocean; and South African ports. A single north-south line links Northern Rhodesia's Copperbelt with Southern Rhodesia, where it connects with a line that continues east and through Wankie, Bulawayo, Omsi, Salisbury, and Uthmaniyah. Nyasaland is served by the Nyasaland Railways, a system that extends for about 500 miles from Salima, on the western shore of Lake Nyasa, to the Port of Beira in Mozambique. The only rail connection between Nyasaland and other parts of the Federation is a circuitous route to Southern Rhodesia by way of Dondo, Mozambique, situated only 20 miles north of the port of Beira.

Road, water, and air transport do not compete with the railroads. Only a small proportion of the main roads have all-weather surfaces and adequate bridges or can be considered safe for two-lane traffic. Water service on Lake Nyasa is well organized and ties in effectively with rail and road transportation. The only river service on a commercial scale is the government-operated Zambezi River Transport, which provides a regularly scheduled truck and barge system between Livingstone and Mungu on the Zambezi River in eastern Northern Rhodesia. The government's sailing, Central African Airways Corporation, provides rapid transportation, chiefly for European travelers, between cities and to remote parts of the Federation. More than 30 communities are served regularly by light or medium aircraft, and Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, the hub of international air traffic, appears on the schedules of several international airlines that offer flights in aircraft ranging from DC-3's to Comet jets.

## II. Status of the Constituent Parts

### A. Northern Rhodesia

The mineral wealth of Northern Rhodesia plays a leading role in the economic life of the Federation. The Copperbelt contributes out of all proportion to its size to the budgets of the Protectorate and the Federation. Revenue from mineral production of the Copperbelt, alone, has made it possible for the Federal administration to accept financial deficits built up in both Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and to finance development in all three of

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the constituent areas. Manufacturing and agriculture contribute relatively little to the welfare of the Protectorate.

The Copperbelt is part of a rich mineral field 200 miles long by 75 miles wide that extends from Luanshya, Northern Rhodesia, northward into the Katanga Province of the Congo. Ore from the Copperbelt has made the Federation the second greatest copper producer in the world, second only to the United States. On an average, production is more than enough to meet the United Kingdom's need for new copper and is an immense asset to the sterling area. In 1959 the Copperbelt contributed 15 percent of the Federation's revenue, 18 percent of the net domestic output, and 22 percent of the total value of all exports. Although copper contributes 90 percent of all income derived from minerals in the Protectorate, significant tonnages of cobalt are produced in the Copperbelt; and lead and zinc are mined 100 miles farther south in the Broken Hill area.

At present, power for the mineral industry is supplied from Kariba, purchased from the Katanga, and supplemented by steam generating plants. Within the next 10 years, however, Kariba will become the major source of power. Most of the ore of the Copperbelt -- 85 percent in 1959 -- are carried by the Rhodesian Railways across Southern Rhodesia and Mozambique to the Indian Ocean. Before July 1950, significant tonnages were also exported by rail through the southern part of the Congo and across Angola to the port of Lobito on the Atlantic Ocean.

The white population of Northern Rhodesia is only 3 percent of the total, which numbers approximately 75,000 Europeans, 2,700,000 Africans, and 6,800 persons of other races, largely Asian. More than half of the Europeans live in the mining centers of the Copperbelt, and over 400,000, or slightly less than half of the employed African population of the Federation, are found in the same area. Concentrations of Europeans are also located along the rail line that joins the Copperbelt with Southern Rhodesia, chiefly at cities such as Broken Hill, the administrative capital at Lusaka, and Livingston.

In Northern Rhodesia the European population is not a large land-holding class and is not basically concerned with agriculture. Only about 5 percent of the land is owned by Europeans. Flue-cured tobacco and corn are the most important cash crops of the European farm. Most of the African population, on the other hand, is dependent upon agriculture for a living. In African areas, much of the land is still held by the tribes, and the people live in small villages surrounded by tribally owned patches of cultivation. Peanuts are the chief source of cash income for the African farmer, but wheat is also an income crop in good years. Production of burley and Turkish tobacco on African farms is increasing, and these crops give promise of becoming important in areas not readily accessible for production of food crops.

#### B. Nyasaland

Nyasaland, the least developed and most densely populated member of the Federation, has a strong agricultural orientation. The Protectorate has fared well under the Federation, 60 percent of its budget being contributed from Federation funds. One of the major sources of income in Nyasaland has been the remittances from the more than 165,000 Nyasa workers who, because of the lack of economic opportunity at home, have sought employment in the Copperbelt or in the industries of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. To date, manufacturing and mining are insignificant; but, with access to cheap electric power, these activities could make significant contributions to the economy of the Protectorate.

Although Nyasaland is the smallest member of the Federation, with an area only 25 percent the size of that of Southern Rhodesia, the African population is larger than that of Southern Rhodesia. The total population of more than 2,800,000 is overwhelmingly African. In addition to the 9,000 European residents, the non-African population includes about 15,000 persons of other races, largely Asians who dominate the merchandising fields. Population is most densely

concentrated in the vicinity of Blantyre, the commercial center of the Protectorate. The municipality of Blantyre has a population of about 30,000 of whom 10 percent are European and 10 percent Asian. Most of the Europeans, who own only 4 percent of the land of Nyasaland, live within 50 miles of Blantyre; many of them on the slopes of Mt. Mwaumbumba and Zomba Mountain. Zomba, the administrative capital of the Protectorate, has a population of approximately 5,000 persons.

Agriculture is the most important element in the economy of Nyasaland. The most important exports and major contributors of territorial revenue are products of European agriculture -- tea from the southern and eastern slopes of Mt. Mwaumbumba and tobacco from the Lilongwe area. Although much of the native production is still on a subsistence level, the African agricultural contribution to the territory is growing steadily. Significant quantities of corn, cotton, peanuts, and rice are grown by African farmers exclusively as cash crops in addition to a variety of subsistence crops. Cattle are poor and are valued chiefly as an indication of wealth rather than as sources of food. Nyasaland once possessed more forested land than either Northern or Southern Rhodesia, but only about 20 percent of the area can be considered forested today. The cedars of the Mt. Mwaumbumba forest reserve and the Manku Hills are the most valuable stands of commercial timber remaining.

Manufacturing and mining play insignificant roles in the economy. Processing operations are limited to preparation of tobacco, tanning oil, and tea for markets; and a number of small plants are concerned with milling, brick making, clothing manufacture, and wood processing. Although there are many known mineral deposits in Nyasaland, extraction of iron ore and stone quarrying have been the only mining activities in recent years. In 1959 an aerial survey was conducted to locate mineral deposits that could be worked economically, particularly radio-active minerals and additional deposits of iron ore.

#### C. Southern Rhodesia

Southern Rhodesia, a self-governing colony, has the largest white population of any entity south of the Sahara with the exception of the Union of South Africa. The European population, originally attracted by gold, has increased rapidly in recent years and plays the dominant role in all aspects of activity in the colony. Manufacturing, mining, and agriculture are more nearly in balance than in either of the Protectorates. At present the European population has a firm grasp on the government and on the productive elements of industry and agriculture and is determined to remain in control.

The European population of Southern Rhodesia -- more than 220,000 -- is 3 times that of Northern Rhodesia and nearly 25 times that of Nyasaland. Unlike Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, where the African population controls all but a small portion of the land, the 2,280,000 Africans of Southern Rhodesia control only 50 percent of the land. Most of the European population is concentrated in the vicinity of commercial centers such as Salisbury, Bulawayo, Umtali, Gwelo, and Mafeking.

Southern Rhodesia is the only member of the Federation that has a diversified manufacturing structure. With the aid of an early start in manufacturing and with the technical skills represented within its larger European population, manufacturing has expanded rapidly in recent years and now includes facilities for processing foodstuffs, tobacco, industrial crops, forest products, and minerals. Although some of these activities are carried on at a small scale in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the only blast furnaces and rolling mills in the Federation are at Redcliff near Que in Southern Rhodesia. Other plants that contribute to the colony's industrial status include the assembly plant of the British Motor Company at Umtali, the Rhodesian Alloy plant at Gwelo, the paper plant at Umtali, and the Portland cement plants at Bulawayo and Colleen Bawn.

The most important minerals of Southern Rhodesia in terms of value produced are asbestos, gold, chrome, and coal. In response to increasing world

demand and steady prices, asbestos production has increased rapidly. The high quality of the long-fiber asbestos from large plants at Babant and Mashaba has reduced small operations in other parts of the colony to a marginal level. Nearly all of the gold of the Federation is produced in Southern Rhodesia from 170 small, widely scattered mines. The only chrome produced in the Federation is mined at Selous, near Gwelo, and coal for the Rhodesian Railways and power stations comes from two collieries near Mafeking. Both excellent dolomitic limestone and good-grade iron ore are being worked near the site of the steel plant at Redcliff.

Early in the 1920's Southern Rhodesia was an important copper producer, but it has been eclipsed by Northern Rhodesia, with its rich copper deposits. Renewed emphasis on copper production, however, has resulted from high prices during the late 1950's, and two mines near Harare, that had been closed for 25 years, have been reopened; near Sincia, in the north, the development of a large new deposit has been started. Other minerals of importance include tungsten, beryllium, and lithium. As is the case with Northern Rhodesia, most of the mineral production is exported, and the success of the domestic mining industry is dependent on favorable world prices.

European agriculture ranks third in the economy of Southern Rhodesia. Flue-cured tobacco is the major cash crop; corn, sugar, potatoes, citrus fruit, cotton, and vegetables are grown on a smaller scale. Although most native agriculture is concerned with subsistence crops -- maize, millet, kafir corn, and rice -- the African is becoming increasingly aware of cash crops. In good years the African-produced corn crop is nearly half the size of that from European farms; peanuts are overwhelmingly a product of the African farmer; and Africans raise significant portions of the bean and cotton crops. Because of the greater capital outlay and the greater skill required in curing and grading flue-cured tobacco, most Africans produce fire-cured and sun-cured (Turkish) tobacco.

The Kile Dan, completed in November 1950, will add significantly to the irrigated acreage of Southern Rhodesia. The project, which is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Fort Victoria near the confluence of the Welive and Umhagasi rivers, will provide a reliable source of irrigation water for a large concentration of citrus and sugar plantings.

#### III. The Future of the Federation

The future of the Federation is closely associated with the political and economic relationships between the European settler and the native Africans. Whatever the outcome of the current debates over the Federal Constitution and the constitutions of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, the Federation and its members face multiple problems in the years ahead. Opportunities for employment are needed for an African population that is increasing more rapidly than it can be profitably employed under current conditions. The conservative and superstitious native farmer is hampered by his unconsistently low crop yield, and the unskilled African laborer has few chances of advancement. Europeans currently enjoy a high level of living, but European productivity is low by western European standards. As increasing productivity in both African and European labor and a continued flow of investment capital for industry and development projects are essential for a sound future economy. An immediate issue in Federation affairs is the role of the African in a nation in which he forms the majority but has a small voice in government and industry. The European cannot long prosper without African support; without European support the African will find it difficult to achieve the productivity and administrative skill that are prerequisite to economic advancement and orderly government.

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